DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 412 878 HE 030 670

AUTHOR	Readings, Bill
TITLE	The University in Ruins.
ISBN	ISBN-0-674-92953-5
PUB DATE	1996-00-00
NOTE	238p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Harvard University Press, 79 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (paperback: ISBN-0-674-92953-5, $15.50; hardcover: ISBN-0-674-92952-7).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Change Strategies; *College Administration; *Cultural Influences; *Culture; *Educational Change; Educational Economics; Educational Environment; Educational Trends; *Excellence in Education; Financial Exigency; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Institutional Autonomy; Intellectual History; Political Influences; Politics of Education; Professional Autonomy; Role of Education; *Social Change; Social History
IDENTIFIERS	*Globalization; Kant (Immanuel); Nation States

ABSTRACT

Historically, in Europe and North America, the university has served as the primary institutional reservoir of national culture. This book examines contemporary shifts in the function of the "University" as the inculcator within the nation-state of the concept of national culture, arguing that as the nation-state has lost its power as the primary focus of society, it is no longer clear what role the University has within society nor what the exact nature of that society is. If the university is no longer the repository of national culture, and the notion of national culture is no longer the referent toward which research and teaching efforts are directed, then the university is no longer an ideological apparatus of the state but has become an independent bureaucratic system. This book tries to assess these implications, noting particularly the emergence of a discourse of "excellence" in place of earlier concepts of "culture" as the language with which the university seeks to explain itself to society. Other concepts explored are the status of the university in a transnational framework, the university and the Kantian concept of "reason," literary culture, culture wars, and cultural studies, the university during the 1960s the period of student revolts, and university teaching today. (Contains 208 endnotes.) (CH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****